

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
May 11, 2020
Remote Meeting on GoToMeeting

Present: Karen McKnight, Steve Webster, Nancy McRae, Daphne Tanis, Amy Golodetz, Pat Lamphere, Betsy Chapek, Laurie Graham, Peter Hiskes

Guests: None

Time: 6:30pm - 7:50pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen welcomed all and led the meeting.

Public Comment: None

Approval Minutes: Minutes from 4/13/20 approved with changes & Special Meeting Minutes 5/6/20 approved.

Japanese Knotweed Along Crane Brook Trail

- Peter, Betsy, Daphne, Karen, and Steve did some Japanese Knotweed cleanup in the Crane Brook Conservation District. They put down hardware cloth and members of UCC will continue monitoring. Planted about 24 willow and dogwood. Daphne printed off signs letting people know it was a conservation commission project and Peter dug the holes to put the signs in.
- Steve created a write-up for FPF about the Crane Brook Conservation District and UCC's work with Japanese Knotweed. We will write something longer for the Mountain Gazette. Some revisions and discussion to FPF post. Daphne suggests mentioning this is our third manual control method we have tried in the past 3 seasons: smothering/cutting, removal of rhizomes, and now hardware cloth.
- **Next steps:** Plant more willow, keep an eye, clip other knotweed. Follow along with other landowners who have tried methods to control their knotweed: Nancy knows someone who is planning to use goats.
 - Amy & Steve will create a document to hold observations. At the top of the document, there will be a chart where we can sign up for a monitoring week. Below will be a journal-style entry for observations.
 - Nancy reminds that volunteers have signed up to help with knotweed control and suggests inviting the public to come and help.
 - Laurie will write up an email to volunteers once we have a spreadsheet saying we are going to be there. Volunteers may also be able to use the same spreadsheet sign-up/journal prompt.

Green Up Day May 30

- Pat has not received information on the town's Green Up Day plan. Not sure if there will be drop-off locations, if there is a dump truck, if the truck will be manned by someone working on Saturday. Jericho is not doing Green-Up day, and Pat has been contacted by members of the Jericho community wondering if they can bring their Green Up Day bags to Underhill. Pat has posters but no bags.
- Karen will check in with Town Hall to see if any bags arrived and check in with the Selectboard to see what their plans are regarding Green Up Day.
- Some Options Considered: Just one location due to lower volume of collections compared to previous years. Cancelling it due to the pandemic and possibly hosting our own Green Up town event later in the year.
- After confirmation from the selectboard, Betsy will create FPF post announcing Green Up Day plans or cancellation.

Plant Sale June 6

- Daphne would like to continue with Plant Sale as an important community event. Amy has read the Farmers Market guidance which would be useful if we choose to host. We would need to come up with new methods for accepting money, movement of people and Plant Sale procedures.
- Timing is important for transplanting/moving them and might not be able to push this event back.
- Karen will check with Selectboard about the Underhill Plant Sale.

- Once Karen hears from the selectboard, Laurie will send out an interest survey to the town. Questions: Are you still interested in attending and do you have plants to donate?

Other Items:

- Daphne is concerned about clear-cutting near CBCD and would like to suggest to the town that no new buildings be created without UCC approval. Group discussed and suggested finding out the boundaries of the Town Garage.
- Daphne has noticed trees have been cut beyond the right-of-way on her property which the group discussed as a civil issue and suggested that Daphne bring this to the Selectboard.
- Special Meeting Next Week to discuss the usage of CBCD and signage. We will outline a possible work plan related to signage and how we will share this information with the public. Karen will email Ethan Tapper, set up a special meeting tentatively 1 week from today, and invite the Recreation Committee.

Adjourn @ 7:50pm